



WASHINGTON, DC UPDATE: MAY 20, 2022

LAST CALL FOR ECA'S VIRTUAL LEGISLATIVE ACTION WEEK!

[ECA Legislative Action Week](#) is now less than two weeks away! There's still time to join us virtually from June 6-10 as we advocate together for ECA's "three-point plan" for industry recovery:

- Supporting efforts to provide relief to our industry's hard-hit small businesses
- Bringing back communicable disease coverage within event cancellation insurance
- Restoring pre-pandemic international travel policies and visa processing capacity

For more on our priorities, please check out these videos with industry leaders and stakeholders:

- [Small business support](#) featuring Chris Griffin from CREW XP and Dasher Lowe from EDPA
- [Pandemic risk insurance](#) featuring David Audrain from SISO and Jeff Evans from ASAE

1. Small business relief

- On Thursday, May 19, the U.S. Senate failed to advance the [Small Business COVID Relief Act of 2022](#) on a 52-43 vote
 - While a majority of Senators voted in favor of moving to debate on the legislation, it needed 60 votes to break a filibuster (of note, three supporters were absent)
 - At this point, the path for small business relief in the Senate is unclear, though the bill's sponsors, Sens. Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Roger Wicker (R-MS), remain committed
 - While disappointed, **ECA will continue to prioritize advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill that support our industry's hard-hit small businesses**, including as a cornerstone of our upcoming [ECA Legislative Action Week](#)

2. International travel

- New [research from U.S. Travel](#) finds that 46% of international travelers would be more likely to visit the U.S. if pre-departure testing requirements for vaccinated adults were lifted
 - On Monday, May 16, a bipartisan group of lawmakers from Nevada [called on President Biden](#) to remove pre-departure testing requirements as soon as possible
 - ECA will include this ask as part of [ECA Legislative Action Week](#), along with restoring visa interviewing and processing capacity at U.S. embassies and consulates globally

3. Healthy Workplaces Coalition

- ECA is pleased to support the new Healthy Workplace Coalition, led by ISSA – The Worldwide Cleaning Industry Association, which will advocate for policies designed to incentivize clean and healthy workplaces beyond COVID-19 (see attachment for more information)
 - **ECA encourages its alliance partners to join this important effort at no cost** by emailing John Nothdurft from ISSA at johnn@issa.com

Healthy Workplaces Coalition

Steering Committee:

International WELL
Building Institute (IWBI)

ISSA – The Worldwide
Cleaning Industry Association

American Institute of
Architects (AIA)

American Society of
Heating, Refrigerating and
Air-Conditioning Engineers
(ASHRAE)

American Society of
Interior Designers (ASID)

Building Owners and
Managers Association
International (BOMA)

Green Seal

International Facilities
Management Association
(IFMA)

U.S. Green Building
Council (USGBC)

Background

In 2020, an informal group of more than 50 trade associations and nonprofit organizations came together to champion policy proposals that would provide critical federal support to help businesses implement workplace improvements and strategies to advance the health, safety and well-being of their employees and all others inside these facilities. In the past two years, businesses around the country have been struggling to meet these new and evolving expectations for returning safely to our buildings. More than ever, businesses need help as they face the unexpected costs to deploy proven workplace solutions and strategies to address a post-COVID-19 environment as well as broader health and safety-related issues into the future. While several policy proposals have emerged to address this challenge, Congress has yet to take action to help incentivize healthy workplace improvements. As market demand increases for businesses to invest in healthier workplaces, the need for federal action to support these businesses also increases. We need Congress to incentivize health and safety improvements for buildings at scale for all businesses of every size – all of which are struggling to meet these new expectations.

Goal

The Coalition's initial goals will be centered around raising awareness, ensuring the public, policymakers and businesses understand that workplace health and safety is critical to doing business now and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic – and that businesses can implement and communicate tangible, data-backed actions that support workplace health and safety. Notably, according to a recent Honeywell survey, 68% of the global workforce does not feel completely safe working in their employer's buildings unless they are actively engaged in adopting measures to improve health and safety. The main objective of the Coalition will be to support and advance federal policy aimed at helping businesses and other organizations better afford and implement health and safety improvements in workplaces and across the built environment for the benefit of employees, customers, and the public.

Who

The Healthy Workplaces Coalition is a non-partisan coalition of leading nonprofits, trade associations, companies and other entities committed to promoting and advocating for safer and healthier workplaces as well as associated federal policies that will help businesses toward this goal.

The coalition will be led by a Steering Committee made up of leading nonprofit, trade and business organizations committed to advancing healthier and safer workplaces. The coalition will also invite additional members that share an interest in this mission.

Steering Committee members include the International WELL Building Institute, ISSA – The Worldwide Cleaning Industry Association, the American Institute of Architects (AIA), American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), American Society of Interior Designers (ASID), Building Owners and Managers Association International (BOMA), Green Seal, International Facilities Management Association (IFMA) and U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC).

When

The Healthy Workplaces Coalition Steering Committee will grow and strengthen the coalition by inviting new members to join, with the goal to formally launch in March 2022.